

a segmenting-range setting unit for setting a range of output levels of the analog signal, wherein the plurality of levels into which the analog signal is segmented are within the range which is set by said segmenting-range setting unit.

2. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a switch for providing the digital signal with a plurality of bits or a single bit, said switch being connected to said A/D converting unit.

3. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said segmenting-range setting unit comprises a storing unit, and the plurality of levels are stored in said storing unit.

4. (Amended) An apparatus comprising a controller including

a controller which can be pressed and operated;

a detecting device for outputting an analog signal corresponding to the pressing operation of said controller;

a level segmenting unit for segmenting the analog signal output by said detecting device into one of a plurality of levels;

an A/D converting unit for converting the segmented analog signal into a digital signal in accordance with the one of the plurality of levels; and

a segmenting-range setting unit for setting a range of output levels of the analog signal, wherein the plurality of levels into which the analog signal is segmented are within the range which is set by said segmenting-range setting unit; and

an entertainment device having a storing unit for storing the plurality of levels.

5. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said segmenting-range setting unit is a volume device that is inserted in a power line to which said detecting device is connected for use in determining the range of output levels.

6. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said segmenting-range setting unit comprises:

a volume device that is inserted in a power line to which said detecting device is connected for providing a first voltage level;

a storing unit for storing a limit value of the range of the output levels of the analog signal; and

a comparator for comparing the first voltage level with the limit value,

wherein said comparator outputs the range of output levels to said level segmenting unit when the first voltage level is within the limit value, and outputs the limit value to said level segmenting unit when the first voltage level is over said limit value.

7. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a projection which is formed at a bottom of said controller, and an elastic body having a concave portion which engages with and supports said projection, wherein said detecting device is pressed due to deformation of said elastic body.

8. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a first flat surface which is formed at a bottom of said controller, and an elastic body having a second flat surface which engages with and supports said first flat surface,

a1 concl. wherein said detecting device is pressed due to deformation of said elastic body.

Sub B1 10. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a switch;

a digital switch serving as an ON/OFF switch provided in said controller; and

a2 concl. a digital signal generating unit for outputting a single bit digital signal, said digital signal generating unit being connected to said digital switch,

wherein said switch provides either the digital signal or the single bit digital signal.

11. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

an elastic body which engages with and supports a bottom of said controller;

a first sheet member and a second sheet member; and

first and second fixed terminals provided in said digital switch which are pressed due to deformation of said elastic body and which are provided on one side of said first sheet member,

wherein said detecting device is provided on one side of said second sheet member at portions corresponding to said first and second fixed terminals.

Sub B1 13. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a3 an elastic body which engages with and supports a bottom of said controller; and

first and second fixed terminals provided in said digital switch which are pressed due to deformation of said elastic body and which are provided on one side of said sheet member,

wherein said detecting device is provided on the other side of said sheet member at portions corresponding to said first and second fixed terminals.

14. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said controller is pressed and operated by a pressure which is preset and an output level of the analog signal which is output by said detecting device during the pressing operation of said controller is stored in said storing unit.

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cont. 15. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the segmenting range setting unit adjusts the plurality of levels in response to detecting a change in the range of output levels.

16. (Amended) A signal output adjusting method of a control apparatus comprising a controller which can be pressed and operated, a detecting device for outputting an analog signal corresponding to the pressing operation of the controller, a level segmenting unit for segmenting the analog signal which is output by the detecting device in accordance with the pressing operation of the controller into one of a plurality of levels, and an A/D converting unit for converting the analog signal into a digital signal in accordance with the one of the plurality of levels which is segmented by the level segmenting unit, the control apparatus being connected to an entertainment device, said method comprising the steps of:

outputting, by the entertainment device, a control guide for causing the controller to be operated;

storing an output level of a resultant analog signal output by the detecting device in a storing unit which is built in or connected to the entertainment device; and

segmenting, by the level segmenting unit, the resultant analog signal output by the detecting device into a plurality of

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levels on the basis of the output level stored in the storing unit.

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17. (Amended) A method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of storing the output level of the resultant analog signal output by the detecting device in a memory card as the storing unit, which is detachably connected to the entertainment device, by pressing and operating the controller in accordance with the control guide.
